

(1)  
worke they told me  
Mr Burgess told them  
i was taking care of  
them and not to take me  
away that i was end crazy  
they told them to tell me  
to keep quite and quit  
sign painting and they  
would let me live in  
Jackson.

Mr Burgess told me to go  
ahead and sign paint  
that they would stand  
by me they put a  
ganster up to buy the house  
to get us out of the  
nabor hood Mr Burgess  
lived there 35 years i  
didnt want them to sell  
it i seen wat they where  
dueing to get them in a  
mabor hood that no one  
new them so they could

turned them on them with  
they said

Mr Burgess rented a house  
from a real estate Man by  
the name of Best  
a block and a half from  
the Cruger store on Lansing  
Ave

They got a woman that run  
a rooming house on  
Mackinac St a cross from  
to art and Woodfield Lumber Co  
i think her name is spider  
she come out to the house  
and told us that Madam  
Kathren a forten teller turned  
Mr Burgess in she got 25.00  
twenty five dollars for turn  
him in i was doing some  
painting for her at the time  
right after she called the  
wagon Chief Phelps come  
in her place and talked to

her he got out of a baker  
wagon. i new they where  
something going on whin  
i seen them whin i got  
home Mrs Burgess told me  
that women come out and  
told her that Mr Burgess  
wanted to see us before  
he died that night he died  
he was well and nothing  
the matter with him

Too days after he died Doctor  
Vaugh told a friend from in  
to tell me if i didnt  
get out of Jackson he  
would kill me from the  
discription my friend gave me  
i new then whin i seen  
him he come in there and  
sived me up.

then they got Mrs Burgess  
over in a house on  
Lancing ave an was

putting men after her they  
had her doped.

A street car conductor by  
the name of McNickels  
and his wife lived there  
Machine gun Kelley and  
his gang where all in  
there when i got home  
from work She was sitting  
by the stove all doped up.  
She said they told her to  
tell me it wont be long  
now i was working for  
the Local 680 the next  
day i went in the office  
i guess i was crying.  
Mr Well the Manager asked  
me wat was the matter  
I told him there was a gang  
of criminals out in a  
house on Lancing av  
and they where abusing  
Mrs Burgess

he said say that Mrs Burges  
is using dope i kin tell  
a dope fiene in minute  
i see hone then i told  
him about that gang  
out in that house  
he said ill fix that  
he rote a letter to United  
states attorney General in  
Detroit Mich three days  
after they come down  
The Jackson Police Tiped  
Machine gun Kelley and his  
gun off they all cleared  
out McGuckels and his  
wife and left there furnit  
then they come over to the  
house and tsun her on the  
floor and abused her she  
told me when i got home  
from work The Jackson  
Police and Sheriff's miss  
in formed the government  
men

(12)

They turned her brother  
against me and got him  
to kick me out then

They broke her home up.  
I got a room two doors  
from the Coca Cola Co. the  
second night i was there  
Lutenent Brownie and  
Machine gun Kelley gan tried  
to take me out of the house.  
I was in bed my room was  
at the top of the stairs.  
my door was open. i herd  
him say to Mrs Simons  
the lady i roomed with  
isn't going up and get  
that feller she told him  
i was all right and  
wouldnt let him take me  
out there was a big car  
around in the alley with  
gansters in it i got another  
room on Taylor st

With people by the name  
of & arvie they come  
there and turned them on  
me then i left there and  
got a room at Mr Moore  
across from the Coca Cola  
Mrs Burgess come to me  
crying and said she had  
no home and wanted me  
to let her come and take  
care of her i told her  
to keep away from me that  
the union gamsters would  
dope her and get her to  
call the Police on me  
like they did i told her  
the only way i could take  
care of her was to marry  
her she said all right  
then the union gamsters  
started to worked on  
her i got a place on  
railroad st they chased me

(14)

(15)

out of there i got a  
Room on Blackstone st  
the second night i was  
there the scout car Police  
and Machine gun Kelley  
gan tried to take me  
out of there this is the  
Place where i seen his  
wife the next day i got  
another room i went back  
to get my close Kelleys wife  
followed me out to the  
side walk and that tall  
light hair killer that  
got after me in Fort Wayne  
Ind i went back to  
my wife the next day i  
got a nother place north  
of town thru the wellfare  
I dont no the name of the  
street or the nans name  
i was just there a week  
they put him up to dope her



I couldnt get no means to  
paint so i run out of  
money they had me cornered  
i had no money to get  
another place so i cleared  
out and left my wife i  
dont now what become of  
here she was in the hands  
of the gangsters god bless  
her i got a job on a  
farm near Osseo at  
Mr Haskins Machine gun  
Kelly followed me out there  
they came around the house  
2 nights sunday Mr  
Haskins and his wife went  
to church. they where gone  
about 10 minutes when Machine  
gun Inspector Kelly drove in  
he had his little girl in is  
arms for protection i told him  
to get out he said he was  
back to get me <sup>coming</sup>

0 16 ( )  
well J. Edgar Hoover got  
them

Doctor Vaughn

Madam Katherine Fortin Teller

Mrs. Snider

Labor leaders at the head  
of the street car union of  
Jackson and Chief Phelps  
all arrested for the  
murder of Mr William  
Burgess

I want Sheriff Livett and  
all the sheriffs under him  
ever Police under Phelps  
Capt William Hansen of the  
Michigan state Police and all  
the men under him all  
arrested for conspiracy and  
working with  
Machine gun Inspector Kelley  
of Chicago Police force  
to murder me and every  
Labor leader in Jackson

0 17 0

and for blocking my  
mail to the Army General  
in Detroit Michigan  
I can prove every thing  
I have told you  
I ask you to give me a  
chance and brake up.  
This terrible thing the  
Black Legend and  
night Raiders.

William B. Kinsella  
Hillsdale Michigan

I am working for  
William Taylor on a farm  
3 miles north west of  
Hillsdale Michigan

8 & J

Chicago, Ill.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.



JDM:FG

January 21, 1939

61-7398

Special Agent in Charge  
Cleveland, Ohio

Re: <sup>0</sup>Black Legion

Dear Sir:

RECORDED OF

61-7398-105  
24

On June 6, 1935 there was received in the Laboratory one .45 caliber Colt automatic pistol upon which the serial 7251440 was successfully restored as reported in Laboratory Report 34607. At that time this weapon was placed in the Laboratory's collection of firearms, but as it is no longer desired it is requested that the Laboratory be advised as to whether there is any reason why this gun may not be permanently disposed of.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

61-7398-169  
INVESTIGATION  
JAN 23 1939  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAILED  
JAN 21 1939  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Cleveland, Ohio

January 25, 1936

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

O  
Re: BLACK LEGION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 21, 1936 (Bureau file 61-7398), requesting information as to whether there is any reason for not disposing of .45 calibre Colt automatic pistol, serial number 251440.

A review of the Cleveland office file in the above entitled case reflects that on May 21, 1935 the aforementioned automatic pistol was delivered by [redacted] Ohio, to Special Agent C. E. Smith, at which time the serial number had been obliterated. The file further reflects that the War Department had been circularized and no record of this gun having been stolen was located.

On July 8, 1936 the Cleveland office received a communication, and again on July 27, 1936, from one [redacted] of Lima, Ohio, which communications were written on behalf of [redacted] endeavoring to have this gun returned to him, and on July 31, 1936 Mr. [redacted] was advised that unless he had a bill of sale showing that he had legitimately purchased this gun, it would not be returned to him. By letter dated August 18, 1936 Mr. [redacted] advised that he had purchased this gun from a former officer in the Black Legion and did not get a bill of sale or even a receipt.

From the foregoing this office can see no reason why this pistol should not be permanently disposed of.

RECORDED

&  
INDEXED

Very truly yours,

Al Rosen  
Special Agent in Charge

WAC/rh  
62-3

7-72-170

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

JAN 26 1936

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

KRM:HEC

May 9, 1939

Mr. [REDACTED]  
411 East Columbus Drive  
Tampa, Florida

Dear Mr. Vert:

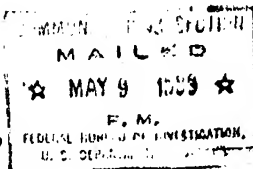
Please be advised that the Federal Bureau  
of Investigation has no jurisdiction over the matters  
referred to in your letter of April 29, 1939.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc-Miami

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A.  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Crowl  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. McIntire  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy



June 21, 1934

15

United States

Have received letter of 12 of 13

of us. Have notified local authorities, but no results given. Would like to know what steps to take?

Letters recieved were written with typewriter, pictures were drawn with crayons, envelope was a Whitesfield North Carolina concern.

RECORDED

INDEXED

61-7378-191

Black Legion has given to the 30th of May to leave town. Ten people have recieved letters. All involved are United States citizens, voters, and prominent Americans. Answer at once by letter, telegram, or wire.

Ypm  
6/19/34



*Tampa Fla*

RECEIVED  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
JAN 10 1961

NOV 14 9 1 AM '60

RECEIVED

NOV 14

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Cleveland, Ohio  
February 9, 1940

CES:VLD  
62-3

AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION, NIGHT RIDERS,  
BULLET CLUB -- MISCELLANEOUS  
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir:

On February 9, 1940, Mr. ROBERT LARKIN, reporter for the Cleveland Press newspaper, personally called at this office and furnished acting Special Agent in Charge Frank L. Grubbs with a copy of a letter dated February 5, 1940, which letter was apparently sent by W. H. HAGEN, editor of the Lima News of Lima, Ohio, to DICK MAHER of the Cleveland Press. The letter reads as follows:

"Every once in a while a member of the profession calls on another for a little help. Such is the case.

We are being sued by Mr. Bert Effinger, alleged Black Legion Commander, for a \$250,000 note on a charge of criminal libel because of stories we printed.

Some years ago the F.B.I. chief in Cleveland investigated the Black Legion and at that time was given a Legion robe and a gun by one of the ex-members of the Legion.

I want to get in touch with the F.B.I. man and thought your federal beat man could help me out, or else check the office and see what file they have on Effinger and the Legion. Strange as it may seem I believe the Fed's name was Smith and he was in charge of the Cleveland office about 1934 to 1936.

1940

172

1940

1940

Director

February 9, 1940

Anything you can do along this line will be appreciated as we want to build up a good defense against Effinger and give him the licking of his life."

Acting Special Agent in Charge Frank L. Grubbs advised Mr. LARKIN that it would be impossible to give him any information concerning this or any other matter, as authority for release of such information must of necessity come from the Bureau in Washington.

The attention of the Bureau is directed to the third and fourth paragraphs of the above-quoted letter, wherein editor HAGEN states he believes the "Fed's" name who investigated the Black Legion was Smith, and that the investigating agent obtained a gun and Legion robe from an ex-member.

In connection with the above, attention is directed to the report of Special Agent Clyde E. Smith dated May 24, 1935, in the above case which reflects that Agent Smith is apparently the individual referred to by Editor HAGEN, it also being noted on page six of reference report that one [REDACTED] an ex-Black Legion member, advised that Department of Justice agent by the name of SMITH was to be initiated into the order.

With reference to the gun and robe, it will be noted that a .45 caliber automatic pistol, the number of which was subsequently ascertained to be 251,440 by the technical laboratory as well as the fact that it was Government property, was obtained. However, the robe was apparently obtained by J. F. CORDREY, post office inspector at Lima, Ohio, and forwarded to his inspector-in-charge at Cincinnati, as reflected by an inclosure transmitted to the Cleveland office under date of April 22, 1935, by the Bureau.

For the further information of the Bureau, [REDACTED] an ex-member of the Legion who furnished information to this office as reflected by the reference report of Agent

Director

February 9, 1940

Smith, and one O. L. ROYD, whose name appears on page twelve of reference report and is listed as a member of the Legion, were at the time of instant investigation employed by the Lima News.

Very truly yours,



W. L. Listerman  
Special Agent in Charge

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Cleveland, Ohio

CEK:VLD

May 29, 1940

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: KERMIT WESTBAY  
NPA Graduate  
Police Department  
Lima, Ohio

Dear Sir:

While in Lima, Ohio, recently Special Agent C. E. Kleinkauf of this office had occasion to contact Chief of Police J. C. GOODWIN in connection with a case involving VIRGIL H. EFFINGER who was formerly connected with the Black Legion. Agent Kleinkauf upon making inquiry of Chief GOODWIN as to any knowledge he might have of EFFINGER, was asked by GOODWIN, "Why don't you ask WESTBAY about the Black Legion?" Agent Kleinkauf inquired of GOODWIN what he meant by that remark, whereupon he advised that it had been reported to him by several individuals that WESTBAY was a former lieutenant in the Black Legion and had been quite active in this organization at the time it was flourishing in Lima, Ohio. Agent Kleinkauf inquired of GOODWIN if he had any information which would substantiate this report, and he advised that he did not, but that the information had come to him from quite a reliable source.

In connection with the above information it should be kept in mind that at the time Chief GOODWIN furnished this information he and WESTBAY were rival candidates for the position of chief of police, the appointment later falling to Chief GOODWIN. However, at the time he furnished this information Chief GOODWIN did not indicate that he was furnishing it because of any dislike or rivalry between him and WESTBAY, that it was quite a well-known fact around Lima and he thought it should be called to the attention of the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

*W. L. Listerman*  
W. L. Listerman  
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-77-1-173	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 1 1940	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
MAILED	FILED

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

July 20, 1940

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Tiffin, Ohio

Dear Mr. Young:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 8, 1940.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to my attention are indeed appreciated. You may be assured your letter is being made a matter of official record for appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

*J. E. Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

✓  
A.M.T. - Hurston

61-7518-174

61-7518-174

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



NOT IN DIRECTORY

iffin, Ohio  
July 8, 40.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-17

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 JUL 10 1940

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ERNEST

61-1398-17  
To the Bureau of Federal Investigation

I have a "tip" for you, in case ~~any~~<sup>any</sup> are sleuthing about this part of Ohio. ~~Reed~~<sup>FINE</sup>

\* Reed, a small brunette man of this city, un-  
recently employed in the Home Restaurant, (w  
he still takes meals and goes) is at present  
an active spy for the Black Legion. (very strong  
in Findlay, Carey, Bucyrus, Tiffin, etc.) He was  
aiding in the plot against O. A. Scarboro of Findl  
Ohio. A direct tip assures us of this, plus our own  
suspicions. He said he knows where stolen goods  
may be bought cheaply in Toledo. He was said  
to have been implicated in white slavery three  
months ago. He is said by several to have  
peddled dope, <sup>for years</sup> and was making mysterious tri  
out of town, often, while working here. He made  
those trips as late as April. He is a tea cup  
reader, <sup>(fortune teller)</sup> which we believe is only a "racket"  
to cover him being in "queer" places, if true.  
He rooms at #7 N. Monroe St., Tiffin, at pres  
He formerly roomed at a questionable place  
and admitted of lewd intoxicated women  
coming there. He is quite foxy and beguiling.

11-20-40  
L.H.H.

Recvd

2 m

251



He has boasted of his oratorical "big  
"words" and how he spread this offers  
for his conspiracy. He has boasted of the  
stolen goods sold cheaply, before Mr. Searfoss  
and others. If he were watched a bit  
it might lead to some discoveries. He is  
also quite a drinker and gambler.

Respectfully,

  
  
Tiffin, Ohio

(P.S. No reply  
necessary)

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Wash., D.C.







SALES  
DIRECTOR

RECORDED

August 23, 1942

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Post Office,  
Fortuna, California

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Your letter postmarked August 4, 1942, has been received in the absence of Mr. Hoover. Its contents will be called to the Director's attention upon his return.

Sincerely yours,

Helen F. Candy  
Secretary

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 8  
AUG 23 1942 P.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AUG 23 4 07 PM '42  
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR  
FBI  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mrs.

[REDACTED]  
Martina, California



Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Washington  
D.C.

(COPY)

Fortuna California  
c/o [REDACTED]

B61

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr Hoover:

I know your a terribly busy man right now but please  
take time to give this a second thought.

First of all, more than anything else I would  
adore an autographed photo of you. I admire you almost as  
much as Mr. President.

Second, Rumors here that have gone on for months  
say that there is a club affair of "nazi symphiziers" called  
the Black Legion located at Ferndale California. This little  
town is approx. 10 miles south west of Eureka California.  
Of course its only rumors, but its been going on so long  
there must be some truth in it. Couldent the FBI at San  
Francisco investigate it anyway? I do hope that this does  
help catch thoes "wops" (yes, they are all Itilains).

Please dont forget the picture if your not too  
busy.

Very Sincerely yours,

/s/ MRS. [REDACTED]

RECEIVED



September 15, 1942

JCN:klb

61-1518-174 X1  
94-4-5929-1

Special Agent in Charge  
San Francisco, California

RE: BLACK LEGION;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I.

Dear Sir:

For your information and possible assistance in conducting an investigation of the above captioned organization there are transmitted two copies of a letter received by the Bureau from Mrs. [REDACTED] Box [REDACTED] Fortuna, California.

It is desired that a preliminary investigation be conducted to ascertain if the above captioned organization actually exists and if it is engaged in activities detrimental to the internal security of the United States.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 10  
SEP 15 1942 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED  
SEP 15 1942  
FBI

*[Handwritten signature]*

100-100000-1

August 25, 1942

Special Agent in Charge  
San Francisco, California

Re: Mrs. [REDACTED]  
c/o [REDACTED]  
Post Office  
Fortuna, California  
RESEARCH

Dear Sir:

Inclosed is a copy of a letter received at the Bureau from Mrs. [REDACTED] and it is desired that you have an Agent interview her as soon as possible to obtain full information concerning the Black Legion at Fortuna, California. Incidental to this inquiry your office should ascertain the identity, background and reputation of the above named individual. This matter should be given your prompt attention and your reply should be furnished the Bureau by air mail special delivery letter.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 8

★ SEP 8 1942 P.M.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 1

★ AUG 25 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

100-100000-1  
100-1398-174X2

INDEXED

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
FILED

100-100000-1  
100-1398-174X2

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California  
September 14, 1942

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: MRS. [REDACTED]  
c/o MR. [REDACTED]  
Post Office  
Fortuna, California  
RESEARCH

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letters from the Director dated August 25, 1942 and September 8, 1942 respecting investigation in the above entitled matter. 67-7398-114X2

It is to be noted that this matter is being given immediate attention by this office and that an Air Mail, Special Delivery letter will be forwarded by September 24, 1942.



OTM:wap  
94-131  
AMSD

6 SEP 30 1942

Very truly yours,  
INDEXED

N. J. L. PIEPER, Jr.  
Special Agent in Charge

7-4-42  
F B I  
20 SEP 22 1942  
MAILED

A discreet investigation will be instituted respecting activities of Portuguese in the Ferndale area, although it is to be noted that a previous inquiry as to possible activity among the Portuguese in that area was made of the City Marshal at Ferndale with negative results.

# WHO BACKS THE BLACK LEGION?

★ WHO ARE THE BLACK LEGIONAIRES?

★ WHAT IS THEIR OBJECT?

*How can we stamp them out?*

These and many other points will  
be discussed by good speakers!

on

FRIDAY 7.30 pm

JULY 31<sup>st</sup>

at

BEWICK AND

SHOEMAKER

Auspices: Ward 19 Branch, Communist Party

NOT RECORDED

61-7398-



THE  
BLACK  
LEGION  
IS  
EXPOSED!

....But, to really "get in on the ground floor" of the exposure, it is not enough to read the Detroit Daily press, which in conspiracy with the Republican and Democratic politicians, deliberately "cover-up" and "whitewash" the real backers of the BLACK LEGION!

\*\* \*\* \*

To Read the TRUTH about the BLACK LEGION, follow the special articles in the

SUNDAY WORKER  
(America's Biggest and Best Labor Weekly)

Single Copy . . . . . 5¢  
One Year subscription . . . \$2.00

\*\* \*\* \*

Follow JOHN L. SPIVAK'S Sensational disclosures of the  
"REAL BACKERS OF THE BLACK LEGION" in the weekly NEW MASSES ---  
(On Sale at all Downtown Newsstands).

Single copies . . . . . 15¢; One year subscription . . . \$4.50  
\*\* \*\* \*

OTHER TIMELY READING RELATING TO FASCISM AND THE BLACK LEGION:

Hearst, Labor Enemy Number #1 . . . . .	(pamphlet) . . . . .	\$ .03
The World Gone Mad . . . . .	(pamphlet) . . . . .	.02
In the Dungeons of Mussolini . . . . .	(pamphlet) . . . . .	.05
Behind the Swastika . . . . .	(pamphlet) . . . . .	.05
The Truth of Father Coughlin . . . . .	(pamphlet) . . . . .	.05
Imperial Hearst . . . . .		2.75
Hearst, Lord of San Simeon . . . . .		3.00
Europe Under the Terror (John L. Spivak's latest) . . . . .		2.50

\*\* \*\* \*

SPECIAL OFFER '...'

Any one of the following nine \$2.00 to \$3.00 books can be had for only 50¢ together with a year's subscription to the SUNDAY WORKER (\$2.00). Use the subscription blank on the enclosed folder:

LENIN by Ralph Fox  
BELOMOR by Maxim Gorky  
A WORLD TO WIN by Jack Conroy

STALIN by Henri Barbusse  
SEEDS OF TOMORROW by Sholokov  
CHINESE DESTINIES by Agnes Smedley

WHERE THE GHETTO ENDS by Leon Berman  
THE GREEN CORN REBELLION by William Cunningham  
THE NATURE OF THE CAPITALIST CRISIS by John Strachey

NOT RECORDED

61-12-95

UCC CARUSI  
Executive Assistant to the  
Attorney General

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 3, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CARUSI

I talked to Kimball Flaccus on the telephone. He introduced his friend, Ensign Conklin who is the person mentioned in his letter. He heads the War Orientation Unit of the Educational Services Section of the "Navy."

He came in and talked to me about what he knows of the Ku Klux Klan in Detroit. He has no information as to whether or not. His background is:

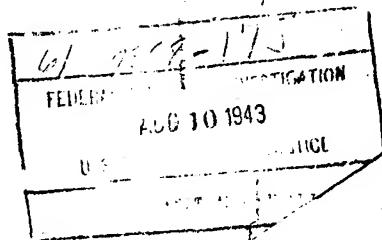
1. Born, Wyandotte, Michigan
2. School, Wayne University
3. Worked summers 1934-1936 on a painters gang. Was told at that time that it would be a "good idea" to join the Black Legion.
4. Was advised by his father not to join.

He believes there are about 200 to 300 members of the Black Legion in Wyandotte, that it is a fertile field for misadventures of a good or bad type and from his observation they have no connection with Detroit operations. He calls them a lunatic fringe but he has no late information. He is just anxious to be helpful and feels that he could get information if we wanted him to.

He brought the attached material from Lt. Flaccus which is of no particular usefulness to us, I think.

P. H. C.

The whole business might be referred to the F. B. I. for as far as the A. G. is not interested.





Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Suite 1729 - 111utter Street  
San Francisco, California  
October 6, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: BLACK LEGION  
SECURITY MATTER - I  
Bureau File 94-4-5929

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated 9/15/42, enclosing information from a Mrs. [REDACTED] Fortuna, California, that an organization, possibly subversive, known as the BLACK LEGION, was located at Ferndale, California.

An officer of the California Highway Patrol interviewed Mrs. [REDACTED] at which time she stated that the name BLACK LEGION was a figment of her imagination, and that she had not heard anyone else call the alleged group by that name. It is noted that Mrs. [REDACTED] was unable to furnish any further information regarding the group other than that her information had come from a RALPH LA COSTA, who had said that "He was asked to join a society by three men from Ferndale, but that he was afraid to join the society." (Name or type of society not known.) Attempts to locate Mr. LA COSTA have been negative.

A continuous investigation by the California Highway Patrol in the vicinity of Ferndale, California, reflected that although there had been people gathering occasionally at various homes in Ferndale in 1942, there did not seem to be nearly as many gatherings in 1943. The opinion was rendered by informants of the Highway Patrol that these might have been card parties, or just plain social gatherings.

HERBERT MAHS, Minister of St. Marks's Lutheran Church, Ferndale, informed the California Highway Patrol that the members of the church have an insurance plan which is called the "AL Insurance Company" or "Associated Lutheran Insurance Company". There is a meeting of this insurance group held every quarter. The meetings are held at the homes of members the first Tuesday after the 15th of the first month of every quarter. The names of various people, who informants stated gathered together occasionally, were presented to Mr. MAHS, and he said that nearly all of these people belonged to the St. Marks' Lutheran Church and attended these insurance meetings. It is noted that if there were any people meeting as a group which could possibly be identified as being similar to the alleged subversive group known as the BLACK LEGION these people would be the most



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logical contenders for that title.

Inasmuch as a thorough investigation of instant report has failed to reflect that there is any organization known as the BLACK LEGION and further that no such type of organization is known to be engaged in subversive activities in or about the Ferndale, California, area, this case is being closed.

Very truly yours,

*N. J. L. Pieper*

N. J. L. PIEPER  
Special Agent in Charge

PES:ER  
62-1491

# **SAY JONES JOINED THE BLACK LEGION**

**Witnesses Tell Senators That  
They Helped Induct Him—  
Ohioan Denies Charge**

WASHINGTON, July 7 (AP)—Two members of the Black Legion swore today that Representative Robert F. Jones, Republican, of Ohio, joined the hooded organization at a flashlight ceremony in 1938, but Mr. Jones denied that he had and six character witnesses lauded him as a fair and tolerant man.

The conflicting testimony came at a Senate subcommittee hearing on President Truman's nomination of Mr. Jones to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

One of the self-described Black Legion members was Frank A. Barber, police chief of Beaver Dam, Ohio. He testified that he was committed to a hospital for the insane for sixty-one days in 1922, but he said that this was the result of "a frame-up." He acknowledged also that he once was jailed for "shooting a guy" in Hammond, Ill.

The other witness who said that Mr. Jones became a member of the legion was Glenn E. Webb of Lima, Ohio. He testified that he (the witness) in 1942 forged nineteen payroll checks totaling \$853.86. Senators questioned the witnesses closely on their own records.

An affidavit produced by Senator Owen Brewster, Republican, of Maine, stated that still another adverse witness, Virgil E. Effinger of Lima, was convicted of contempt of court in 1940 and sentenced to two months in jail and ordered to pay a \$200 fine.

Before the subcommittee ended its open sessions, Mr. Jones took the stand to assert for the second time that he had not joined the legion.

"There is absolutely no tie-up by me with any organizations that are subversive," Mr. Jones said. He told the subcommittee that he believed its members had "properly discounted" what he called efforts by Drew Pearson, the columnist, "to smear me."

Mr. Pearson has asserted that Mr. Jones joined the Black Legion, and that his father was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Mr. Jones also has denied the latter charge.

Messrs. Barber and Webb said that they helped induct Mr. Jones into the legion in 1938. Mr. Barber said that he administered the preliminary oath of the legion to Mr. Jones at a ceremony which took place at night on a farm near Lima. He described the legion as one of the degrees of the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. Webb testified that he gave the final oath as a gun was held at Mr. Jones' back. This, he added, was part of the ritual.

Mr. Effinger acknowledged that he signed an affidavit stating that he saw Mr. Jones inducted, but he said on the stand he could not remember whether the member of Congress joined. Mr. Effinger testified that he was commander of the Black Legion in Lima.

Among the character witnesses who appeared in support of Mr. Jones was the Rev. David F. Holma, pastor of the Methodist church in Lima. He said that in areas of the Congressional district Mr.

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Ladd.....  
Mr. Nichols.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Gurnea.....  
Mr. Harbo.....  
Mr. Mohr.....  
Mr. Pennington.....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....  
Mr. Nease.....  
Miss Gandy.....

Jones represents "where the Catholic vote is strong," the House member had "always run ahead of the ticket."

Rollin R. Moxley of Lima said that Mr. Jones had proved to his satisfaction and 90 per cent of the Negroes in Lima that he was not a member of the Black Legion.

The Rev. John B. Tenny of Washington said that in his dealings with Mr. Jones in connection with the work of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, the representative "impressed me as being a gentleman and fair-minded."

The other character witnesses were Bernard Brender, a Lima merchant; Frank Lange of Lima, Ohio, and the Rev. Charles O. Dutton of Takoma Park, Md., a college classmate of Mr. Jones.

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JUL 14 1947

This is a clipping from  
page 2 of the  
New York Times for

7-8-47

Clipped at the Ser  
Government

65 AUG 4 1947

# Black Legion Conduct in Depression Recall Truman Checking on Deserting Democrats

By Drew Pearson

Let's We Forget—Some Congressmen seem apathetic about my allegation that their colleague, Representative Robert



Jones

is a garter snake.

(Representative Jones denied emphatically on Tuesday that he was ever a member of the Black Legion—Editor's Note.)

Black Legion started after Ku Klux Klan got smoked out by too much publicity but proved it was a good money racket . . . Of William Shepherd, Bellaire, Ohio, health commissioner, explains about the legion's origin as follows: "I was exalted cyclops of KKK but withdrew when Grand Dragon Colecott objected to my wearing a black robe. So I organized a 'black guard' in Ohio . . . Pretty soon the darn thing grew by leaps and bounds," continued Dr. Shepherd. "Everybody round here wanted to be one of my blacks, and started organizing black groups. You have to have mystery in a fraternal thing to keep it alive. The folks eat it up."

Came the Depression. With jobs scarce, the Black Legion got out of hand. Many labor people joined and escorted small businessmen before eerie night meetings to threaten them with fires or bodily harm if they discharged men—joining the Black Legion was one way to keep your job . . . In Detroit, however, industrialists were accused of using the Black Legion as vigilantes to combat organized labor . . . Heart of Ohio's Black Legion was Lima, home of Representative Jones, now nominated to the all-important Federal Communications Commission . . . Also living in Lima is former National Commander Virgil H. Effinger, who signed an affidavit in 1938 naming Jones as a Black Legionnaire . . . Another legionnaire, Glenn E. Webb, then on the Black Legion initiating crew, swears Jones knelt before him at a farm outside Lima, took the oath of membership. (Certain money occurred at the time the legion was riding the crest

Organized Intolerance—Say the New York World-Telegram has described it: "The Black Legion's crimes are part of a larger picture of intolerance in America. They are cut from the same picture as anti-Red foreys into campuses, vigilantes and lynching mobs, anti-labor terrorism and other manifestations of special-interest racketeering wrapped up in the garb of patriotism."

## Do Farmers Strike?

Farm Bureau President Ed O'Neal, long one of the smoothest lobbyists at the Capitol, was almost, but not quite, set back on his heels last week by young Representative Walter Huber of Akron, Ohio, during O'Neal's testimony before the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report.

"The District Line" by Bill Gold is being suspended during Bill's vacation.

Huber, who is developing into a skillful debater, stopped O'Neal to take up the question of strikes, the farm chieftain having said he might favor an even more drastic labor measure than the Taft-Hartley Bill. "How then do you justify the strike having been called by the meat-producing farmers last fall?" Huber asked the strike-hating O'Neal.

O'Neal replied that "it was not any strike."

"They just wouldn't get out meat, is that it?" Huber persisted.

"The law of supply and demand ruled," said O'Neal.

"If you can compel the workingman to sell his labor for a certain price under certain conditions," persisted the Ohio Congressman, "then could you not compel the farmer to sell his produce, which he produces through his sweat, with the help of God and nature, for a certain price also?"

"I say we believe in collective bargaining; sure we do," O'Neal replied.

Here Committee Chairman, Senator Bob Taft, jumped in apprehensively to protest: "There is nothing in this bill (the Taft-Hartley bill) that makes any man work for anything that he does not agree to work for, except that he continues to work for 60 days after his contract ends."

"The Government sets up the wages for which he should work," said Huber.

"No," Taft replied, "there is only a 60-day period in there in a case where the whole Nation is affected by an industry. He has to continue the status quo for 60 days."

O'Neal then spoke of the long hours worked by farmers, and their anger about "how the other fellow works."

"Well," replied Huber, "I represent three rural counties and I have the highest opinion in the world for farmers and industry. But I also found some farmers who worked part time in our factories in addition to taking care of their own work."

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- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

G.I.R.

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# Jones, FCC Approves, Denies Race Prejudice Charge by Pearson

By the Associated Press

Representative Jones, Republican of Ohio, yesterday testified before the Federal Communications Commission, yesterday denied charges by Drew Pearson that he had "bigoted, anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish affiliations."

Mr. Pearson, newspaper columnist and radio commentator, testified before a Senate Commerce subcommittee that Mr. Jones was a member of the Black Legion and that his father was an organizer for the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. Pearson also said that Mr. Jones' father took him to Klan meetings as a boy and "introduced him as the youngest member of the Klan." Mr. Pearson further alleged that Representative Jones once sent greetings to Gerald L. K. Smith for publication in the "Cross and Flag," Smith's magazine.

**Says Father Fought Klan.**

Mr. Jones testified that neither he nor his father ever belonged to the Klan, that his father fought the organization and was "labelled a Catholic sympathizer."

He said that he had never belonged to the Black Legion, but on the contrary had fought it, and that he had sent no greetings to Smith.

Mr. Pearson said speeches made by Mr. Jones had been quoted in "subversive" publications.

Senator Brewster, Republican, of Maine, chairman of the subcommittee, remarked:

"If you go on that basis you can convict anybody of anything."

**To Meet Thursday.**

The subcommittee met in closed session yesterday afternoon, discussed the testimony and arranged to meet again next Thursday for a possible decision.

Chairman Brewster explained that Senator Capehart, Republican, of Indiana, had to be away, meanwhile, and that the subcommittee also wanted to see an affidavit which Mr. Pearson had promised to deliver in support of his contention that Mr. Jones was a member of the Black Legion.

Mr. Jones was nominated to the FCC June 18, the same day the White House withdrew the reappointment of Ray C. Wakefield to the commission.

A dispatch to The Star from Lima, Ohio, last night quoted a former officer of the Black Legion as also denying that Representative Jones ever was a member. It read as follows:

"Virgil H. (Berl) Effinger, one-time officer of the Black Legion, told the Lima News tonight that Congressman Ray C. Jones of Lima never was a member of the so-called Black Legion." Effinger identified himself as a former local commander of the organization, but denied that he ever was national commander. He added that he is not now a member."

Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

G.I.R.S

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Mr. Tracy  
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Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

## Pearson Repeats Black Legion Charge Against Jones in Letter to Sen. White

Drew Pearson, Washington columnist and broadcaster, yesterday sent to Senator Wallace H. White, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, a letter protesting confirmation of Representative Robert F. Jones (R., Ohio) as a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

In testimony before the committee last Friday, Pearson alleged that the Congressman was a member of the Black Legion. The Ohioan promptly branded the charge as a lie.

In his letter to Senator White, Pearson repeated the allegation he made to the committee and submitted in support of it an affidavit signed by one Virgil H. Effinger, a resident of Lima, Ohio, alleged that he was present at a meeting where Representative Jones took an oath as an applicant for membership in a secret society to which Pearson accused the Congressman of belonging. Pearson also asserted

that one Glenn E. Webb of Lima called upon the Senate committee was available to testify to some of the charges. He requested the FBI to investigate the columnist's allegations. He requested the FBI to investigate the charges.

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44-635-C

June 25, 1929

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

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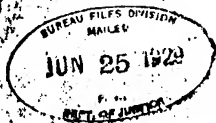
There is transmitted, attached hereto, a photostatic copy of a newspaper clipping entitled "Riders Lash St. Claireville Man," together with a photostatic copy of a newspaper clipping entitled "Proof County Has Night Rider Organization Reported in Hands of Prosecuting Attorney."

This matter is being referred to you for your information and such instructions as you may care to issue in the premises.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 624357



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SITIGATION	
JUN 26 1929 A.M.	
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
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# PROOF COUNTY HAS NIGHT RIDER ORGANIZATION REPORTED IN HANDS OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Proof of the letterheads, letters and other statements that prove the existence of a Night Rider organization in Belmont county will be presented to the grand jury convening Tuesday, according to a statement made today by Prosecutor George C. McKelvey in connection with the attack by nine robed persons on Lawrence Van Horne of St. Clairsville near the Hutchinson school house north of the county seat Wednesday night.

The evidence came to the prosecutor by mail yesterday. Its source was not indicated by the markings on the envelope. The prosecutor, after examining the contents, locked the envelope in his safe for later use and refused to discuss what it contains. Included were pictures of authorization issued by a Columbus detective agency and badges worn by Klansmen.

## Photos of Alleged Leaders

Letters written by a Bellaire physician and which are said to indicate that a Night Rider organization existed in Bellaire, Morristown, Barton, Neffs and Key districts a few years ago are included as are photographs of the physician and of a woman residing near St. Clairsville, both in Klan regalia. The physician is reputed to have been the head of the Ku Klux Klan in the county and woman is said to have been similarly honored by the members of her sex allied with the organization.

Various Ohio towns, including Newark, Zanesville and Youngstown are mentioned in the documents that McKelvey says will go before the grand jury in its

investigation of the beating given Van Horne for alleged conduct that did not meet with approval of a portion of the community. A Neffs resident is said to be mentioned prominently in connection with the mystery circle that is said to include persons formerly prominent in Klan activities.

McKelvey declares that, in his opinion, the attack on Van Horne is convincing proof that a Night Rider organization is active in the county. Sheriff Ford Moore, who has had a part in question-

ing persons connected with the investigation, deploras such activity, he stated yesterday. As yet no arrests have been made but interest in the incident was heightened yesterday by the official statement that one of the parties whose connection with the events of last Wednesday is being investigated had left town.

Women in Party? Sheriff Moore scouted courthouse rumors that women were members of the party that flogged Van Horne. Names of two were mentioned as likely to fig-

ure in the grand jury investigation and evidence to show were away from their respective homes Wednesday night is to be in the hands of officials.

The case to be investigated by the Belmont county grand jury is not the first of the kind in recent years. Only last fall girls and a man were taken from an auto and as one fled another two were marched to a near Barton and threatened disaster. A Barton mine man, tried for alleged participation in the party, was acquitted by a jury in common pleas court.

At Morristown a colored allegedly friendly with a woman, was hustled to Bellaire and put on a train for southland while a girl residing there was the victim of a tarring party which drove while she was riding along National road.

Woodfield Man Kidnaped A Woodfield resident engaged in the practice of one of the professions that is rated as an abhorrent trade is said to have been ordered to leave the county, being kidnapped in the process. The man, a capital at his front door and taken to a Belmont county farm where he was started on a trip out of the state that is said to have been his destination.

The county is interested in case not only from the crime angle but, because Van Horne was a prominent citizen, yesterday under the Ohio mob law claims to have recognized voice of one of the hooded g-

## PACKAGE BY MAIL REVEALS NIGHT RIDERS DATA ACCORDING TO BELMONT PROSECUTOR

The United States mail today placed in the hands of Prosecutor George McKelvey of Belmont county, a package of evidence in connection with the Night Riding activities of an alleged robed and masked band in the Eastern Ohio district. This evidence, the prosecutor said, in his office at St. Clairsville, is more good fortune than the state had expected.

It purports to show that a Night Riders organization existed in Belmont county and that its former members may have had a part in the whipping of H. L. "Pete" Van Horn, St. Clairsville painter on the Maynard highway last Wednesday night and in other

operations of this type in Eastern Ohio which includes the Barton case of a year ago, when a young man was threatened with hanging; the tarring of a Morristown girl and the chasing from town of a Negro.

The packet now in the hands of the prosecutor includes the photo of a Bellaire physician and a St. Clairsville woman, attired in the garb of the Ku Klux Klan and another photo of badges issued to officers of the organization by a Columbus detective agency. Commissions from the same agency are exhibited and these men, it is charged, served as supposed officers of the law.

Prosecutor McKelvey today de-

clared one St. Clairsville man had left town yesterday but that he could be located when needed for questioning. The Van Horn case will go to the grand jury when it meets next Tuesday. McKelvey said today but had nothing to reveal as to the names of persons under suspicion in the whipping of the St. Clairsville painter.

One report which had gained some strength and which had women in the party which whipped Van Horn after removing him from his auto on the Maynard highway, is scouted by Sheriff Ford Moore who has been investigating the matter and declares no evidence has been found to support this contention.

44-111-1

not the H. L. Van Horn

TRIDERA  
Remnants